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NEWS RELEASE

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HOT LOTTO LAUNCH PICKING UP SPEED

BISMARCK – After a slow start, Hot Lotto sales are picking up speed. The North Dakota Lottery launched its second game, Hot Lotto, today at the M & H Convenience Store, in Mandan where the first ticket was sold to Mandan Mayor, Ken LaMont.

Although the first ticket sale went well, technical problems with the software download prevented most retailers from selling Hot Lotto and Powerball tickets. Initially, only 11 of 398 lottery terminals accepted the software download.

Late last night, the software for the Hot Lotto game was transmitted via satellite to the terminals. It was anticipated the central data system linking the terminals would complete the software download overnight, so as the first ticket was being sold in Mandan the remaining terminals would also be ready for Hot Lotto sales. Unfortunately, the data system experienced technical difficulties.

The North Dakota Lottery's on-line system vendor, Scientific Games International, quickly identified the problem and field service technicians across the state immediately began manual downloads to accelerate the process. While most of the terminals have not been able to sell any lottery tickets so far today, 168 retailers are now on line. Scientific Games is confident that the remaining retailers will be online and selling Hot Lotto and Powerball tickets today.

For more information on Hot Lotto, please visit our website at www.ndlottery.org

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